

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-18 were pending. Claims 2, 11 and 15 have been cancelled, Claims 1, 3, 7-8, 12 and 16 have been rewritten, and Claims 19-24 have been added. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment.

Rejection of Claims

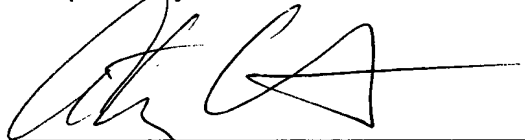
Claims 1, 4 and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Smith (U.S. Patent 5,262,730). Applicant has rewritten Claim 1 and traverses the rejection of amended Claim 1. Claims 2-3, 5-6 and 11-18 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 7 and 8 have been rewritten to incorporate the elements of allowable Claims 2, 12, and 15, respectively. Claims 19, 21 and 23, which correspond to the allowable combination of Claims 1 and 5, Claims 7 and 13, and Claims 8 and 15, respectively, have been added.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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